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COUNTRY Eastern Germany

REPORT NO.

3800030002-8

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TOPIC Cottbus Airfield

EVALUATION

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DATE PREPARED 13 August 1952

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REFERENCES

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PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Between 9 June and 6 July 1952, the number of jet aircraft permanently located at Cottbus airfield was increased from 3 to 5. (1)
2. The following observations were made at the field between 26 June and 17 July:

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26 June. A type-30 plane [] made local flights of 5 to 6 minutes. The crews were usually changed at the take-off point after each landing. Aircraft parked at the field included 5 jet bombers, 2 twin-engine planes with nose wheels, 1 twin-engine transport and 6 Pe-2s in front of the hangars and 14 to 16 Pe-2s on the old dispersal areas.

1 July. Between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. formation flights were made at altitudes of over 6,000 meters. []

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3 and 4 July. There was air activity similar to that observed on 1 July.

8 July. At 5 p.m., 5 jet bombers, [] 2 twin-engine planes with nose wheels, and 21 Pe-2s were counted at the field. There was no flying at 5 p.m. (1)

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9 July. Between 7:30 and 8:30 p.m., two jet bombers practiced flying in formation.

10 July. A jet bomber was aloft between 5 and 5:30 a.m.

15 July. Between 5 and 6 p.m., no flying was practiced. The same aircraft were observed at the field as on 8 July.

17 July. At 6 a.m., five jet bombers [] were observed. There was no local flying up to 1 p.m. (2)

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3. On 16 July, 8 x 85-mm guns were observed in the AA gun emplacement in the southern section of the field. Two rows of eight tents each were located about 100 meters east of the gun emplacement. A telephone line extended from the AA gun emplacement to the northern section of the field.
4. The board fence along the eastern field border was completed. Work continued on the fence on the southern side along the road. (3)
5. Construction was nearing completion on 5 brick quarters, 1 temporary building for officers and a temporary building housing the dispensary which were located along the east side of Burger Highway within the barracks area. (4)
6. On 15 July, 10 to 12 new three-axle radio trucks [] were parked in the northeastern section of the landing field along Burger Highway. A Russian inscription was chalked in large letters on the radio trucks.
7. It was repeatedly observed that flying personnel, carrying baggage, boxes and suitcases, were trucked to and from the railroad station. (5)
8. On 10 July, an apartment house with 12 four-room apartments on the highway leading to Silow, another apartment house with 12 four-room apartments on Loebensweg, the five-story building of the training college for teachers and Mommsen Halle boarding school adjacent to it were confiscated. All buildings had to be vacated within 48 hours. (6)

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10. On 1 July, nine large railroad tank cars left Cottbus freight station for the airfield.

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[] Comments.

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- (1) The information [] that the number of jet bombers was increased to five is believed to be correct. Three jet bombers [] were continuously observed in Cottbus during the past weeks. The former location of the other two planes is not known. It is possible that they came from Werneuchen where, in mid-June, about 12 new jet bombers were located in addition to the 40 planes previously stationed there. Apparently, some of the additional aircraft in Werneuchen were transferred to Finsterwalde, and two planes were sent to Cottbus in order to accelerate the retraining of the bomber regiments stationed there. []

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(2)

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- (3) This is the first report that a wooden fence is under construction around Cottbus airfield. There are still five occupied airfields in the Soviet Zone of Germany which are not surrounded by a fence.

[REDACTED]

- (5) Information on the arrival and departure of flying personnel was repeatedly received during the preceding weeks. It appears that retraining courses for crews of other units, possibly the bomber regiments in Finsterwalde, are being held in Cottbus. Efforts have been initiated to clarify this point.
- (6) The information that civilian houses are to be vacated indicates an intended increase of personnel in Cottbus. The reason for this increase of personnel is not known.

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